

Message Text

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70

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6283

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3882

EXDIS

FOR AF - ASST. SECRETARY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: PFOR, US, LI
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS FOLLOWING HIS ANTI-
US REMARKS AT 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION

REF: MONROVIA 3881

1. AT THE CLOSE OF THE RECEPTION AT WHICH FONMINISTER DENNIS MADE HIS ANTI-US REMARKS, I REQUESTED ASST. FONMIN DUNN TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH DENNIS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. I MET WITH DENNIS ALONE AT 6:30 P.M. JULY 4 AT THE FONMINISTRY. HE WAS UNRECONSTRUCTED AND UNABASHED, REPEATING THE SAME DREARY LINE. I REMINDED HIM I WAS ACCREDITED TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT WHOM I BELIEVED DID NOT NECESSARILY SHARE THE SENTIMENTS HE EXPRESSED AT THE RECEPTION. NOR DID I THINK THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT WOULD WISH THEM TO BE EXPRESSED ON THIS PARTICULAR OCCASION. DENNIS SAID HE DID NOT WANT INCIDENT TO BECOME ONE OF MAJOR CLASH BETWEEN US AND GOL. I TOLD HIM IF HE HAD COMPLAINTS CONCERNING GOL RELATIONS WITH THE US, IT WAS TIME TO GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS AND DISCUSS WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RESOLVE THEM. I ALSO CITED VARIOUS PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD IN WORKING WITH GOL ON AID MATTERS. I PROPOSED THAT WE HOLD A MEETING ON JULY 9 AT THE FONMINISTRY WITH DENNIS AND OTHER KEY MINISTERS PRESENT TO DISCUSS ANY COMPLAINTS AND CLEAR THE AIR. LETTER AND MEMCONS FOLLOW.

2. WILL REPORT RESULTS OF JULY 9 MEETING IF DENNIS FOLLOWS
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THROUGH AS PROMISED. I AM NOT SURE HE WILL.

3. COMMENT: WE HAD NO INKLING THAT DENNIS WOULD RIDE HIS PARTICULAR HOBBY HORSE ON THIS OCCASION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT OTHER LIBERIANS PRESENT WERE SURPRISED AND DISCOMFITED BY HIS REMARKS. PERHAPS DENNIS FEELS THAT ESCALATING PUBLIC RHETORIC WILL PRODUCE MORE AID WHERE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HAVE FAILED. THIS TACTIC DID SUCCEED WITH FRG AMBASSADOR AFTER A SET-TO WITH DENNIS. FRG CAME THROUGH WITH MORE AID WITH ARRIVAL OF NEW AMBASSADOR.

4. NO MEDIA PRESENT AT RECEPTION ASIDE FROM USIS PHOTOGRAPHER. PUBLIC COMMENTS, IF ANY, WILL THEREFORE BE BASED ON VARIED RECOLLECTIONS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED.
MANFULL

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